(e) and (f) The Hon'ble Supreme Court is seized of the above matter through a writ petition filed by ONGC as also a joint writ petition filed by Association of Scientific and Technical Officers and the recognised ONGC Trade Unions; and has directed the status-quo to be maintained.

Low pressure natural gas as CNG

4974. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether low pressure natural gas can be used as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for vehicles in substitution of petrol/diesel;

(b) if so, the details of such technology being used in India and its prospect;

(c) if not, whether such study is made to get proper use of natural gas now being flared or wasted otherwise in the country;

(d) the quantum of associated and non-associated gas flared in Assam annually; and

(e) whether Government will draw a specific action plan associating GAIL and Assam Gas Company for commercial production of CNG to end national wastage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The gas is required to be compressed at 250 bar pressure for its use in petrol/diesel run vehicles.

(d) the non-associated gas is not flared. Around 10% of the associated gas produced in Assam is flared annually.

(e) Feasibility of production and use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in Assam to reduce flaring has not been established.

Krishna Godavari basin LPG pipe line Project

4975. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether krishna Godavari basin LPG Pipe Line project is being expanded to double gas supply;

(b) if so, the investments proposed to be made in this regard; and

(c) when the work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, in K.G. Basin, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has expanded its pipeline network for transportation of natural gas by completing two pipeline projects of 16.3 kilometres length at a cost of Rs. 12.70 crore.

Seepage of Diesel from Tankers of BPCL

4976. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report captioned "This is drought of another kind; instead of water they get diesel" appeared in the Indian Express dated 22nd April, 2000;

(b) if so, whether any investigations has been made to the probable seepage of diesel from the tankers of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. depot in the area and contaminating the ground water; and

(c) if so, the detail thereof and what action has been taken to prevent such seepage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On receipt of complaint, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited conducted an investigation. Prima facie, there is no evidence to prove that the oil could seep from Manmad installation outside the boundary wall. The oil company has requested National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to carry out detailed study.

Production sharing contracts under NELP

4977. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have finalised the production sharing contracts for the 25 oil blocks awarded to various nations and multi-national oil companies under the New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) if so, the terms of the contracts and;

(c) the modification introduced under the NELP.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Out of 25 exploration